

Jude Episode 8

In the last episode, we stressed the point about law versus grace because, in this next part of *Jude*, the Spirit addresses apostasy in the Old Testament. He uses these examples as a poignant **WARNING** for us to live by grace and not fall prey to perversions of grace.

Jude 5-7

Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that Jesus (the Lord),¹ after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe. And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

We now come to 3 groups of triads (the 5th, 6th, and 7th triad). The Spirit begins with a sarcastic or jabbing comment; *"I want to remind you though you know all things once for all"* (or "although you once fully knew it"). His point is that they had already deviated from what they knew to be true. They had already set aside the truth and were walking on a dangerous and perilous pathway of wrong belief and unbelief that would lead to apostasy.

Triad 5: "Jesus," "saving, and "destroyed."

First, Jesus is a transliteration of the Greek name *"Iesous"*, which is a transliteration of the Hebrew name *Yeshua* or Joshua, which is the literal Hebrew word for "freedom" or "salvation." Digging a bit deeper, *Yeshua* or Joshua is from the two words **Yahweh** and **Yasha**, which literally means **Yahweh** opens, or frees; hence, the idea that Jesus saves in that He sets us free from bondage to self and to the law.

Second, "saving" is rendered in the *aorist active participle*. Hence, it is what He does: He continually is saving or setting free those who are in bondage.

Third, He destroyed those who were not continually believing ("believing" is rendered as a *participle*). This destruction is referenced three times in the New Testament.² Therefore, their example is a perfect **WARNING** to those who believe (as 3 is **Code** and is the number indicating perfection).

This **WARNING** of destruction goes out to all who have proverbially been saved from Egypt (a metaphor for God freeing His people from the world and its ruler), all who have crossed the Red Sea (a metaphor for His people having been baptized into the faith), but who are **NOT** actively believing that **Yahweh** is their **"I AM"** (their absolute provision for every aspect of their lives, all the time).

¹ Note: two of the earliest manuscripts say Jesus, whereas later manuscripts say the Lord, or God, or Christ, and one "God Christ".

² **1 Corinthians 10:5; See Hebrews 3:16-4:7; Jude 5**

Even though He destroyed those He had been saving, that too was an act of “saving” consistent with His name **Yahweh Yasha**. It was an act of mercy on behalf of those who were believing. After all, a little yeast of unbelief will eventually, over time, corrupts the whole batch of dough.³

Like a doctor surgically removing a cancer, **Yahweh** had to stop the infection of wrong belief and unbelief before the remnant of true believers was thoroughly corrupted, even if that remnant was comprised of only 2-people (Joshua and Caleb). Again, consistent with His name, He is always saving. Even in destruction He saves those who are believing.

As we go over this story, we must keep in mind that although there were those who were abject heretics (we will get to that in **Jude 11** with the story of Korah), the scariest part of the story is in regard to the millions who professed faith but were not permitted to enter into the Promised Land. Yes, millions!

Between 2-6 million Jews left the bonds of Egypt⁴ (symbolic of a believer’s salvation experience). When they chose to leave Egypt, they left behind the world and its tyrannical leader (Pharaoh being symbolic of Satan, the ruler of this world). When they crossed through the Red Sea, they finalized their decision to follow God resulting in their salvation from the terrors of their enemy, and they were in effect baptized into their “faith”.

They followed the leading of the Spirit, via a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so they knew when to go, when to stop, when to rest, and when to fight. *They were doing only what God wanted them to do when He wanted them to do it.* They ate of the manna which came down from heaven, and they drank water from the rock, which was Christ. But when they were faced with the choice of living in the desert or entering the Promised Land and going to war against the enemies who dwelt within the land, they chose the desert, they chose death in the wilderness. As such, God swore in His wrath that they would never enter His rest (rest could only be found in the Promised Land).⁵

To frame the reference, the conquest of the Promised Land is symbolic of **Yahweh**’s conquest of our soul, which takes many years of all-out war waged against the enemies of wrong belief and unbelief, some of which are clearly out in the open and obvious, and some of which are buried deep in the mountains and hills, hidden within the secret caves of our soul, hiding behind our pain and trauma.

As the Israelites faced the prospect of entering the land and going to war for an indefinite time against an indefinite number of enemies (some who were giants) and many who were well protected by high walls and steel gates, they were overcome with fear. I am sure that after all their troubles in Egypt and in the desert, they must have hoped that God would have already cleared out the land so they could just waltz into this fabled land of milk and honey and enjoy the benefits thereof. After all, they suffered as slaves for so many years, why could He not just make it easy, for once. Come on God!

Perhaps they felt misled, tricked even. After all, they kept hearing about how amazing the land was, not that they were going to the land of milk and honey and giants, and fortresses, and too many enemies to number. I am sure all they could see in their minds was blood and destruction, and they were terrified; they had enough of that in their past.

³ **Luke 13:21; 1 Corinthians 5:6-7**

⁴ Note, **Exodus 12:37** says that 600,000 men traveled on foot (presumably military age men); thus, when you include women, children, and old men, it is estimated that there was over 2,000,000 people who left Egypt.

⁵ **Hebrews 3:11, 4:3, 5; Psalm 95:11; Numbers 14:23, 28-30; Deuteronomy 1:35**

In my arrogance, I am always taken-back by the thought that with all they experienced of God through their great deliverance from Egypt and Pharaoh, it was not enough to cause them to trust Him with the conquest of the Land. Then God always reminds me that these were severely damaged people. The wounds within their souls were too numerous to count. They had been subject, for generations, to daily oppression, violence, domination, and brutality, and it was **Yahweh** who sent them there and it was **Yahweh Adonai** who set the time for their deliverance.⁶

It is no wonder that they were overcome with fear and had trust issues when they heard about the giants and the mighty fortresses. Living under those conditions for generations would make any people group not just fearful, but terrified. And their relatively short trip from Egypt to the border of the Promised Land did not heal those deep seeded wounds resulting from their daily trauma.

The miracles God performed both within Egypt and on the way out were awesome and powerful, but these people did not choose to let the truth revealed to them about **Yahweh** begin to heal the wounds associated with their years of slavery. Maybe it all happened too fast to even process, and they were just going with the flow.

Moreover, it did not matter that prophecy was being fulfilled (**Yahweh** was fulfilling His promise to Abraham to free His people and bring them to the land), nor that the Spirit was visibly present in the form of a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night guiding their every step, nor did it matter that they were eating the food of angels and drinking the water from the rock that followed them, which was Christ.⁷ The wounds they had incurred were simply too deep—the wounds which caused them to doubt that **Yahweh** would keep them safe.

Accordingly, they refused to believe that the same God who delivered them from the tyrannical iron grip of Pharaoh would deliver them from the enemies in the land. They projected their past onto their future. And it is easy to judge them, but this is something we all tend to do: live fearful that our past will be our future. We are much like the Israelites, always trying to protect ourselves from any further trauma or pain.

FEAR IS THE ANTONYM OF FAITH!

Because of the wounds and the pain of our past, the fear that our past is indicative of our future, and the fact that God usually does not do things as we had hoped or when we had hoped, most people find it extremely difficult to live by faith trusting that Yahweh is in control, that Yahweh is good, and that all He does is to mercifully ensure we live as aliens and strangers in this world free from its death-grip

The first generation of Israelites who were freed from Egypt lived out their lives as apostates—holding to a form of religion, but never willing to bet their lives on all that **Yahweh** said He was, and all that He said He was going to do. They even fantasized about returning to Egypt and the bondage of their old life.

⁶ *Genesis 15:13-14*

⁷ *Genesis 15:12-21; Exodus 12:40-41; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13*

At least it was a terror and a prison they knew, understood, and had survived for centuries. Whereas this life with God exposed them to unknown terrors that they did not know if they could handle and be successful. They would rather be safe in a hot dry desert than take the risk of more trauma.

This is a psychological phenomenon that I have seen over and over. People would rather live in their bondage (the cage they know) than venture out having to risk and expose themselves to a pain and hurt over which they have little to no control.⁸ This is because they have learned how to survive their wounds, and they even find a sick and twisted comfort in the pain because it is their pain, their hurt, and their cage.

Moreover, I believe that at some deep primal level everyone knows that God was responsible for their wounds and their pain (or at the very least they know that He could have stopped it and provided protection and shelter). As such, people naturally have a trust issue with God. And despite His miracles and wonders, without understanding that He destroys to set free, there is no way a person, on their own, can frame what He has done and why He has done it. As a result, they live bound by fear and not faith, and they do all they can in a futile attempt to control the outcomes of their lives. This is how the Israelites who died in the desert lived.

He Will Not Let Us Enter

In bringing up this example, the Spirit is clear that if, because of fear, we desire to stay in the desert and play religion, **Yahweh** will let us. If we really do not want to go to war against the imbedded enemies in our soul, He will respect our decision, confirm our decision, and swear in His wrath that we will not enter the Promised Land.⁹ He will allow us to wander in the wilderness of Christianity where we will ultimately die in the desert never having experienced the promised blessings of peace, rest, and an abundant life that is a fruit of being victorious in war. We will die worshipping a form of God, but never knowing God.

Therefore, He tells us, *“Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, **unbelieving** heart that falls away from the living God.” “Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.”*¹⁰ Why would the Spirit give this intense **WARNING** if everyone who has said the sinner’s prayer has their golden ticket to heaven tucked away in their back-pocket?

In the desert (the wilderness of Religion), **Yahweh** still provides for his people, leads them, and does His God stuff over their lives; as He promised to never leave them nor forsake them.¹¹ But they will not get to know Him, they will always distrust Him, they will not experience intimacy with **Yahweh**, and their experience with Him will never match all the promises they have read and been told about. They will simply be left wanting more until they die without the promise!

Sure, they will be busy doing all manner of religious tasks and duties in His Name (lawless though they may be), and that will make them feel good, at least in temporary spurts, and God may even use them in the lives of others; but they will be missing out, and their experience will always be wanting. They will always be searching for something else, the next thing to keep up the feeling that they are good with God.

⁸ See **Psalm 107:10-16**

⁹ **Hebrews 3:7-4:11**

¹⁰ **Hebrews 3:12; 4:1**

¹¹ **Hebrews 13:5**

WHEN IT IS ALL SAID AND DONE, THEY WILL LIVE IN DISAPPOINTMENT.

THAT IS THE FRUIT OF APOSTASY.

The Necessity of War

But consider this, we were made to be free,¹² unrestrained, to live without fear, and to indulge decadently in the land flowing with milk and honey.¹³ We were made to live in rest, confident that we are *called, beloved and kept*.

Rest assured, this is not a fantasy and we have not been misled nor tricked. But the life promised to us by **Yahweh** is only found when, by faith, we enter the Promised Land and go to war against all the enemies of wrong belief and unbelief that currently occupy our soul. War is necessary if we are to topple the giants, tear down the fortresses, and decimate the enemies that want us dead, and which refuse to submit to **Yahweh** as our **I AM**. The land cannot know peace unless there is first war.

LIFE IS FOUND THROUGH DEATH, AND WAR IS THE PATHWAY!

The scary thing is that we must let the Spirit lead us down into the deepest darkest crevices in our soul where due to fear, pain, and our trauma, we still play “god” (the I AM) over our own lives. We must confront each-and-every one of these places in our soul where fear is ruling as our lord and pain has erected barriers of self-protection. If we do, if we are **willing** to let **Yahweh** have His war, the Spirit will show us **WHY** we can trust **Yahweh**, believing that He is a much better ruler over our lives than we are, and **HOW** to let **Yahweh** be our ruler.

He will teach us that He alone is good, hence, that all He does is just and good.¹⁴ As He leads us to understand that all He caused in our lives (every hurt, wound, and trauma), was good, pleasing, and perfect (there could have been no other way), then this fight, this conquest for our soul, becomes less and less scary. It begins to be something we look forward to and want.

But make no mistake, **this is a war against wrong belief and unbelief**, which is the sin which Jesus wants to conquer.¹⁵ Most people tend to wage war against their sinful behavior, which is an endless act of inane futility. Our behavior is just the fruit of what we think which is the fruit of what we believe. In other words, our sinful behavior is just the indicator of a problem, but it is not the problem. Therefore, trying to control it is senseless.

For instance, the Israelites refusal to enter the Promised Land was not their problem, it was an indicator of their problem. They had a terrible understanding of **Yahweh**, they did not trust Him, they did

¹² *Galatians 5:1, 13*

¹³ *Psalms 36:8; John 7:37*

¹⁴ *Psalms 111:7*

¹⁵ *John 16:8; Hebrews 3:12*

not believe He was good, and they did not believe He would lovingly care and protect them all the way to victory. Their sin was their unbelief.

He Knocks—the Divine Conquest!

This war, this divine conquest of our soul, is the picture behind the passage where Jesus says, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him and will dine with him, and he with Me.”¹⁶ In context of the letter to Laodicea, this is not a passage to be used for evangelism (as so many have done). Rather, it addresses sick believers who think they are good with God and who are fully convinced they are spiritually healthy, but whom God sees as wretched and miserable and poor and naked.

Think of our soul as a long hallway with many doors, most of which are shut and locked down tight, not wanting any one to come in and disturb them. At one time the doors were open and easily accessible by others. But once we started to be hurt, wounded, betrayed, etc., we started to shut those doors and lock them up to protect and care for ourselves. But the truth is we are lousy caretakers who live in delusion. We are wretched and miserable and poor and naked.

Jesus, however, walks the hallway of our soul and He now knocks on each door.¹⁷ If we open the door when He knocks, He will come in and clean out that room of all its filth, pain, terror, fear, wrong belief, and unbelief. He will make it a proper room purposed for fellowship, intimacy, love, and occupation by His Spirit. Sure, in each room a battle ensues, some quite fierce, and at times it feels like we are going to die; after all, our God is a consuming fire.¹⁸ But rest assured, **Yahweh Qanna**¹⁹ is so jealous for us that **Yahweh Mekoddishkem**²⁰ will do everything it takes to be the sole authority which occupies that room; it is how He proves that He loves us.²¹

And when we come to understand **WHY** we can now be believing in Him and **HOW** to now be believing in Him, in that specific room of our life, we find that He will help us give up the fight. Once permitted, He will make His abode in that room, with the result that another part of our being is transformed into His image and becomes a habitation of His peace and rest. Then He moves on and begins knocking on another door. He never busts down the door, He just knocks and patiently waits for us to be **willing** to open the door to Him.

**JESUS WANTS US TO BE THOSE WHO NOW
AND CONTINUALLY OVERCOME THE LIE OF SELF-DEPENDENCE AND
PERSONAL GOODNESS PROPAGATED BY THE RELIGIOUS DELUSION THAT WE ARE
SPIRITUALLY RICH, WEALTHY, AND ARE GOOD WITH GOD
BECAUSE OF ALL WE DO FOR GOD, FOR OTHERS, AND FOR OURSELVES. ²²**

¹⁶ **Revelation 3:20**

¹⁷ “knocks” is rendered in the *present* tense.

¹⁸ **Deuteronomy 4:22-31; Hebrews 12:29**

¹⁹ **Yahweh Qanna: Exodus 34:14; Deuteronomy 4:24; 5:9; 6:15**

²⁰ **Yahweh Mekoddishkem: Exodus 31:13; Leviticus 20:2-8**

²¹ **Revelation 3:19; Hebrews 12:7-11**

²² **Revelation 3:15-22**

We Must Now and Continually Overcome!

When we get to the letters to the 7-churches in **Revelation**, we will find that Jesus' plea is for them to now be overcoming, to now be believing. So, as a precursor, to that study, let's look at what it means to "now and continually overcome" or to now be overcoming?

- **First**, we must accept that **Yahweh** chose us to be Called into His household even before we were born.²³
- **Second**, we must believe that He is **Yahweh Adonai** who is sovereign over all things, which means He is the one who is responsible for each-and-every wound that we ever incurred. He is the cause of destruction and the reason why our doors are shut and locked.²⁴
- **Third**, we must believe that each-and-every wound was an expression of His great *agape* love for us, as He knew that it was our pain, just the right amount of pain, that would cause us to reject the world and come to Him to receive His love.
- **Fourth**, we must believe that all the terrible things we have done or thought, which all stemmed from those wounds, were part of His great plan, part of the steps that were needed for **Yahweh Raah** (our great Shepherd) to lead us to freedom.²⁵ Accordingly, we do not need to carry the weight of it or be bound by failure, guilt, and shame; after all, He died for all of it anyway and He does not deal with us on the basis of our sin. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.²⁶
- **Fifth** (the number of grace), we must believe that **Yahweh Raah** (our great Shepherd) and **Yahweh Nissi** (our banner and rallying place) will lead us in victory while **Yahweh Rapha** (our Healer) will heal us of our wounds, such that we can now be believing and now and continually live as an overcomer.²⁷
- **Sixth** (the number of man), we must know and be fully convinced that He is the one who transforms us into His image. Our attempts to try to be good enough to be like Him are a waste of time, **for the source matters, the source is everything!** As we present ourselves to Him as a willing sacrifice, He will transform us in His time, room-by-room.²⁸ All our attempts to be like Jesus are merely our feeble and pathetic attempt to be the **I AM**.

Now, the Spirit of God will help us to now and continually overcome if we are **willing** to let Him help us. And if we are **willing**, He will transform us such that these truths become our truths. And if we are **willing**, He will help us be **willing**.

²³ **Ephesians 1:4**

²⁴ **Deuteronomy 32:39; 8:5; Job 5:18, 9:24; Jeremiah 30:17; Hosea 6:1; Psalm 103:1-5; 147:1-3; Isaiah 30:26; 45:5-7; Amos 3:6; Lamentations 3:1-17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32; Hebrews 12:6, 10; 1 Peter 1:17**

²⁵ **Psalm 23; 78:52; 80:1; Isaiah 40:11; Jeremiah 31:10; Ezekiel 34:11-13; John 10:11,14; Hebrews 13:20; 1 Peter 2:25; 5:4**

²⁶ **Colossians 2:12-15; Psalm 103:10-12**

²⁷ **Romans 8:37; 1 Corinthians 15:57; Exodus 15:26**

²⁸ **Romans 12:1-2**. Note: transformed is rendered in the *passive* voice.

Folding these concepts into the 5th triad (the number of grace): "Jesus," "saving," and "destroyed." Jesus will save and destroy one way or the other. If we let Him destroy all our wrong belief and unbelief (including the delusion that we can be good for God), we will, by His grace, be released from all our attachments to this world, and we will be saved from our *flesh*, from the darkness that dwells in our soul, from the arrogance of the **ME**, and from all our fear. This is the pathway of death in the same way that it is the only pathway to knowing His peace and rest.

If, however, we hold on to the delusion of our own goodness, He will destroy us in the wilderness of religion, despite having previously pulled us out of this world and into His household. And this is a scary place to be, for those in His household who abide in unbelief will be cast out of His house to that place of outer darkness where there is wailing and gnashing of teeth.²⁹ Hence, Jude says that these stories are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

This fifth triad serves as a **WARNING** to all of us who have been saved from the world. God is asking us to now and continually believe that He is who He says He is (our **I AM**, our sufficiency for all things all the time), and we are – who He says we are (His beloved). He is **WARNING** us to not be like the Israelites whom He swore in His wrath that they would never enter His rest. He is **WARNING** us to be willing to let Him have His war and let Him lead us to victory. This is the only pathway out of apostasy.

²⁹ *Galatians 4:21-31; Matthew 8:11-12, 13:36-42, 47-50, 22:1-14, 24:45-51, 25:14-30; Luke 13:24-28*